4. All Ministries/Departments are requested to ensure that the above basic principles and instructions are followed by all concerned both in letter and spirit. It may also be impressed on all concerned that violation of the guidelines laid down on this subject will be viewed seriously.

(**P. PRABHAKARAN**)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To

All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Copy to:-

(i) Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

(ii) UPSC/SSC/LBSNAA/ISTM/CVC/CBDT.

(iii) Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and UT Admn.

(iv) Lok Sabha Secretariat/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(v) All attached and subordinate offices of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and MHA.

(vi) All officers and Sections of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and MHA.

(**P. PRABHAKARAN**)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Annexure

Extracts from the manual of office procedure

66. Prompt response to letters received -

(1) Each communication received from the Member of Parliament, a member of the public, a recognized association or a public body will be acknowledged within 15 days, followed by a reply within the next 15 days of acknowledgment sent.

(2) Where (i) delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or (ii) information has to be obtained from another Ministry or another office, an interim reply will be sent within a month (from the date of receipt) indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

Stock of uranium

†*96.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of uranium reserves in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that country is passing through uranium crisis as a result of which nuclear reactors are likely to be affected;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey on availability of atomic and nuclear minerals in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government is working on a plan for production of uranium from country's reserves and their optimum utilization with a view to achieve self-reliance in the field of nuclear energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has established 1,16,373 tonnes of Uranium resources *(in situ)* as on 1.10.2008.

(b) Adequate reserves are available in the country to support the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) capacity of the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme. Opening of new mines /mills to recover uranium, the long gestation period involved therein and the increased demand of uranium in the nuclear power stations at high load factors have created temporary mis-match. Opening of new mines is delayed because of the delays in land acquisition, mining lease, rehabilitation, consensus of State Governments, resettlement of the affected persons, environmental clearances, resistance from NGOs etc. This has resulted in operation of reactors with the available fuel at lower capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Atomic Energy, is engaged in Uranium mining since 1967. UCIL is operating four underground mines and one opencast mine in Jharkhand and two new projects are under construction. UCIL has started construction of an underground mine and a mill in Cuddapah District (Andhra Pradesh). Another project for opening an opencast mine, three underground mines and a mill has been planned in Nalgonda District (Andhra Pradesh), which is awaiting clearance from National Environmental Appellate Authority (NEAA). In Meghalaya, an opencast mine and a mill has been planned, which is expected to start after requisite approvals. Exploratory mining is under progress at Gogi Deposit (Karnataka) and Rohil Deposit (Rajasthan) to explore the possibility of opening a mine. Techno-economic feasibility on the development of new deposit is assessed prior to the commercial operation. Besides, two projects under the Eleventh Plan with increased targets on survey and drilling by AMD to identify additional prospects have been undertaken. These measures are expected to meet the requirement of uranium for the planned nuclear power programme of the country.

Chinese incursions in Indian territory

*97. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China continues to needle Indian forces all along the Line of Actual Control;

(b) if so, the number of times the Chinese forces have made incursions in our territory in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim during the current year;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Chinese Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. Since 1993, the two Governments have